



**STUDENT  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES**  
Elk Island Public Schools

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[www.ei.educ.ab.ca/central/instructional\\_servs.htm](http://www.ei.educ.ab.ca/central/instructional_servs.htm)



Elk Island  
Public Schools

## What special education services are available?

Services vary depending on the needs of the individual child. The team of professionals may include an educational assistant, a speech language pathologist, an occupational or physical therapist, and/or behaviour consultant. A teacher and/or early childhood special education consultant coordinates the programming and services for each child.

Professional development opportunities are available to families and staff. Specialized equipment/material specific to a child's needs may be borrowed for short-term loans.



## What are family-oriented programming sessions?

The purpose of a family-oriented programming session is to consult with parents and/or caregivers across settings and to provide coaching information, resources, skills, and strategies to facilitate the child's development. These individually planned sessions, at a minimum of one and a half hours, are intended to enhance the child's centre-based programming and may take place in a variety of settings. They are under the direction of the teacher and generally involve the parent, teacher or developmental specialist, and in most cases, the child.

## How can I find more information?

For further information on early childhood special education services please contact EIPS' Student Support Services at (780) **417-8223** or visit us on the Web.

[www.ei.educ.ab.ca](http://www.ei.educ.ab.ca)

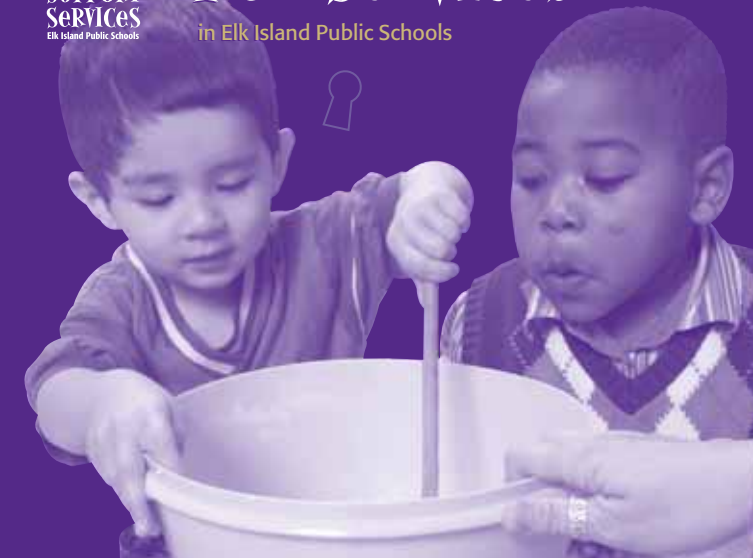
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# Early Childhood PUF Services

in Elk Island Public Schools



Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) believes all students can learn and experience success. The focus of special education in Early Childhood Services (ECS) is to provide an environment in which children can expand their skills and realize their maximum potential in all areas of development.

Working in partnership with families, we support parents' efforts in developing and reinforcing skills at home and provide assistance in accessing the resources and support services that are available within their communities. 

## What is PUF?

Program Unit Funding (PUF) is provided to approved Early Childhood Services (ECS) operators for children with severe disabilities who require support beyond that offered in regular ECS programs. PUF is available for a maximum of three years for each eligible child who is at least two years, six months of age but less than six years of age on September 1.



## How does a child qualify for PUF?

To receive PUF funding, a child must have an identified severe disability or delay in one or more developmental areas according to criteria described by Alberta Education. The child's functioning levels are also considered in determining the child's programming needs.



Information and documentation from qualified specialists must be completed before a child is eligible for PUF. For assessment and referral information, please see your health care provider, visit your local health unit, or contact EIPS' Student Support Services.

## Where does programming take place?

EIPS provides several options for children who qualify for PUF based on the child's age, program availability, and parent choice. Children may attend a preschool program, a regular ECS class, or the REACH (Resources in Early Childhood) program at a PUF-designated site.

## How is programming developed and what is an IPP?

Programming is organized and delivered through an Individualized Program Plan (IPP), which is a concise plan of action designed to address the child's special education needs. Based on assessment

results, observation, and parent input, the learning team identifies areas of individual strength and areas for growth, and then develops specific goals, strategies, and accommodations for the child. Progress is reviewed at regular intervals throughout the year and adjustments are made to the IPP as necessary. Parents play an active role in their child's programming.

